

DESIGN: ALBAN FISCHER

CONGRATULATIONS MARTY & GLORIA

with deep appreciation for your important scientific work and all your contributions to Bellevue Literary Press

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Dear Friends and Supporters of Bellevue Literary Press,

Thank you for being a supporter of BLP, the extraordinary independent publisher that several of us once dubbed "The Little Press That Could." That moniker has become more apt each year, as we grow in stature and honors and audience. Just last month, BLP and our exceptional Publisher, Erika Goldman, were honored by the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses with the Golden Colophon Award for Paradigm Literary Publishing. It has been a remarkable journey from a small press launched in a hidden corner of Bellevue Hospital to the powerhouse press we now are, still small and currently tucked into a hidden corner of a lower Manhattan office building.

Most recently that journey has included a rare third year in the NEA Big Read program for Andrew Krivak's *The Bear*; two of our books on the 2022 National Book Awards longlist, *Uncommon Measure* and *Seasons of Purgatory*; a roster of new books that have received more starred and "must read" reviews than I can count; and substantive grants from both the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.

I'm honored to have traveled the distance with BLP. And all of us at BLP—staff, board, advisory board—are grateful to each and every one of you for being part of this journey, too. You may have discovered BLP through a review, through a friend, through social media (although I admit we have no plans to start posting on BookTok). But however you found your way to our books, your continued support and your belief in the ability of great literature to make a difference in the world is what helps keep us alive.

I hope you will continue to support BLP, to help keep the power of the word fresh, relevant, and ever more important in our often frightening world. Literature gives us hope—as do all of you, our supporters.

Soun Juntos

Gloria Jacobs, President of the Board of Directors, Bellevue Literary Press

Congratulations, Marty and Gloria, on your well-deserved honor!

Your pioneering work and extraordinary scientific contributions will continue to make the world a better one for generations to come.

DANIEL RAY

BELLEVUE LITERARY PRESS Fall Fête December 14, 2023 at 6PM EST

This Evening's Program

Welcome Andrea Louie

INTRODUCTION **Erika Goldman** BLP Publisher and Editorial Director

Tribute to Our Honorees Martin Blaser, MD, BLP Board Member and Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello, PhD Steven Lawrence and Sarah Schenck, co-directors of The Invisible Extinction

REMARKS BY THE HONOREES Martin Blaser, MD, BLP Board Member and Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello, PhD

> PANEL DISCUSSION Moderated by Heather Berlin, PhD

A Special Message Gloria Jacobs, BLP Board President and Dana Sachs, BLP Author

Closing Remarks Andrea Louie and Erika Goldman

Music provided by Richard Jenkins, piano, and Frank Wagner, bass

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Honorees

A physician and microbiologist, **Martin J. Blaser**, **MD**, holds the Henry Rutgers Chair of the Human Microbiome and directs the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine at Rutgers University. From 2000 through 2012, he served as Chair of the Department of Medicine at New York University. While building the academics of the Department, Dr. Blaser also focused on the humanistic side of medicine seeing patients at their bedside, requiring students



to write essays about their patients, and advising many students, trainees, and faculty. He co-founded (with Dr. Danielle Ofri) the *Bellevue Literary Review* and supported Dr. Jerome Lowenstein in the founding of Bellevue Literary Press, and the initial work of BLP publisher Erika Goldman.

Over the last 20 years, Dr. Blaser has been studying our relationships with the human microbiome, the bacteria that live in and on us. He has received numerous awards for his work and served in various prestigious positions over the years, including as President of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and Chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Cancer Institute. He is the author of *Missing Microbes*, a book targeted to general audiences. In 2015, *Time* magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people in the world. Recently he appeared in *The Invisible Extinction*, a feature film focusing on his scientific work and that of his wife, Dr. Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello.



Professor Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello, PhD, is the Henry Rutgers Professor of Microbiome and Health at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, where she is affiliated with the Departments of Biochemistry and Microbiology, and of Anthropology. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and of the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA), as well as a member of the IDSA Editorial Board and reviewer at several scientific journals. Dr. Dominguez-Bello's work focuses on understanding human health before urbanization, and the impact of urban practices that impair the microbiome, as well as strategies for restoration. She is a founding member of the Microbiota Vault, a global initiative to preserve the diversity of the microbes relevant to human health, and to educate and to foster collaborative research with the global South to create microbiota collections in hotspots of biodiversity.

— Moderator ——

Dr. Heather Berlin

is a neuroscientist, clinical psychologist, and associate clinical professor of psychiatry and neuroscience at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. She explores the neural basis of impulsive and compulsive psychiatric and neurological disorders with the aim of developing novel treatments. She is also interested in the brain basis of consciousness, dynamic unconscious processes, and creativity.



Berlin is a committee member of the National Academy of Sciences, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She hosts the Nova series "Your Brain", and has hosted series on PBS and Discovery Channel. She makes regular appearances on StarTalk with Neil DeGrasse Tyson, and has appeared on the BBC, History Channel, Netflix, and National Geographic. She received her D.Phil. from the University of Oxford, and Master of Public Health from Harvard University, and trained in clinical neuropsychology at Weill Cornell Medicine's Department of Neurological Surgery.

The Josef & Anni Albers Foundation and Le Korsa are proud to support Bellevue Literary Press



Photo by Sofia Verzbolovskis

Our women's health center in Dakar serves thousands annually with an unprecedented quality of medical care.





A Message from Lean Hager Conen

I know of no time I wasn't besotted by language, by the mouthfeel of words and the way you could string them together into meaning. Or into nonsense, if you liked. When I was very little, letters and words were my treasured playthings, my most intimate companions. My infinite mystery and delight.

I was raised a secular Jew in a racially and religiously mixed family. My idea of Judaism was a pastiche of socialism, folk dance, civil rights marches, an obligation to question authority, and knowing not to put mayo on my dad's turkey sandwich. In my late forties, to my great surprise, I joined a shul and began participating in weekly Torah study. Soon I was taking notes for what I thought would be a nonfiction book about the community of people who come together to study the same ancient text week after week, year after year.

Instead, I became obsessed by a Kafka parable in which a man, summoned by a bugle no one else can hear, sets off on what he knows will be "a truly immense journey." Where the parable ends, I began weaving a piece of fiction about a girl who sets off after him. On a bike. With, for some reason, a stolen kitten. It was unlike anything I'd ever written. I had no idea where I was going, or why—much like my young protagonist.

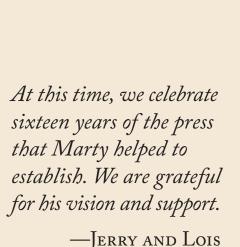
Months later, I found myself writing about another girl entirely. Her story was not obviously related to the first, but soon I was at work on both, moving to and fro between them, discovering connections. Curiosity and wonder filled me. I began to feel that they were moving toward each other, these two girls, across worlds. It occurred to me their stories needed to meet, physically, in the middle of the book—that they should start at opposite ends, with one story printed upside down to the other, so they'd come together at last in a kind of embrace.

I had eleven books under my belt, but writing this one was like encountering a strange creature, capricious and elusive and bewildering. It was like wrestling an angel. It took me three years to finish a draft, and immediately upon doing so I was overcome by sobs. I felt, suddenly and queerly, accompanied. My infinite mystery and delight. No part of this novel is based on my own experience, yet it is the most autobiographical thing I have ever written. I did not set out to write something overtly political, yet how can it not be a political act to trace the journeys of two young girls and produce a book in which no harm comes to either? It was not my intention to address Israel and Palestine, nor to explore religion or theology, yet I wound up with a book in which two children from impossibly separate worlds—one of them Jewish and one whose story echoes that of the cast-out Ishmael—are driven to reach out toward each other, longing to connect with a presence they sense but cannot name. Ultimately, this book is about the human search for something beyond our ability to fathom.

No one wanted to publish it. I revised it in more conventional fashion, interleaving the strands into a single narrative, hoping to make it legible to others. Still no one would touch it. And then something astonishing happened. Erika Goldman at Bellevue Literary Press said yes—only she had a peculiar request: she wanted to publish it as two separate stories in a single volume, beginning at opposite ends, with one story printed upside down to the other. It was as if she had magical glasses that let her

see straight into the soul of the book. Clearly, *To & Fro* had found its destination.

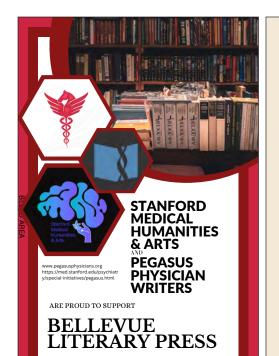
How extraordinary that a place like BLP exists: a literary nonprofit not bound by algorithms and bottom lines, but committed to seeing into the soul of things, to placing in our hands that which may help us better fathom one another and the world. Your support will help them continue this beautiful work. Your support brings us into meaningful community. Warmest thanks, and gladdest tidings.



–Jerry and lois Lowenstein

The Brandt Jackson Foundation

celebrates the pathbreaking work of Martin Blaser and Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello, Dr. Blaser's visionary support of Bellevue Literary Press, and the press's continued success in identifying invaluable stories at the intersection of science and the humanities.



Congratulations, Gloria and Marty!!

Human beings extraordinaire!!

So sorry I cannot be with you on this wonderful evening!

> —Much love, Linda Perlmutter

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An Excerpt from Flight of the Wild Swan

by Melissa Pritchard

The Dead House

Christmas Eve 1854

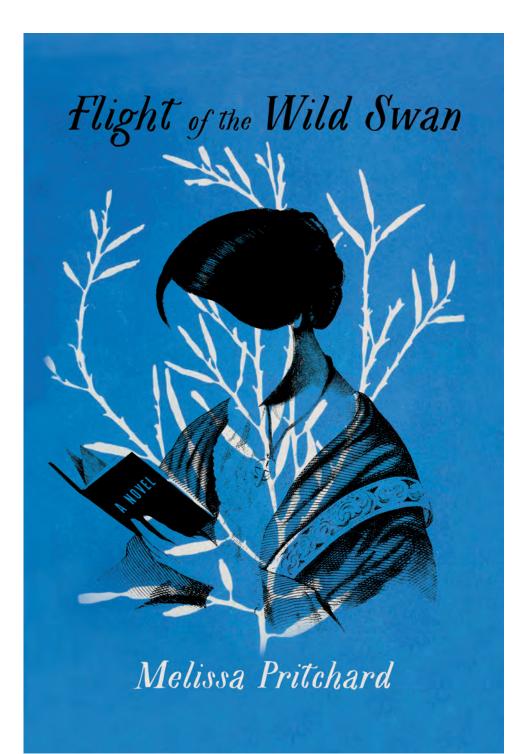
THE DEAD HOUSE STANDS HALFWAY between the Barrack Hospital and the British cemetery. Built to store bodies of soldiers before they can be buried by Turkish grave diggers, it is a simple, low-ceilinged structure of timber and stone.

In the snowy twilight, two women in hooded black woolen cloaks walk toward the Dead House from the Barrack. They walk rapidly, and, being of similar height, keep even pace. The snow, falling steadily since morning, has stopped. Crosswinds that had shrieked, blowing curtains of sharp, stinging snow this way and that, have died down. They follow a fresh path of wheel tracks left by a cart transporting that day's dead from the hospital, their India-rubber galoshes squeaking in the packed snow, their breath forming white plumes. Upon reaching the building, Florence uses an iron key to unlock the door. She and Reverend Mother Moore step into the Inspection Room. Behind this room is a small office, deserted at this late hour. Beyond the Inspection Room and the office is a windowless, unheated room where soldiers' corpses, shrouded in filthy, once-white army blankets, await burial. Because of the freezing temperatures, the smell is minimal. Accustomed to the odor of death, the women take no notice.

She has brought with her two concertina lanterns. She lights her own *fanoos*, lights the second, hands it to the nun. With flames throwing fitful light and long shadows around the four walls of the Inspection Room, the women stand a moment, hesitant, before Florence steps up to the nearest body laid out on a rough wooden plank. Holding her lamp, she draws the blanket down until the young man's face is fully revealed. As she feared, as she had known, it is Albert Moone, infantryman, Ninety-fifth Derbyshire Regiment of Foot. She had held him in her arms once, Mrs. Moone's newborn son—that same wild copper hair—had rocked him to sleep and helped his mother on the day she had run away from her own home. Pulling the dirty blanket back over his face, she moves on.

Followed by Reverend Mother Moore, she enters the largest room. Dozens of bodies lie on planks, close together, in dismal, forgotten state. The smell is stronger in this room, but

Forthcoming from Bellevue Literary Press, March 2024.



she moves among the bodies at the same deliberate pace. *Boys, mere boys, every one of them.* The wind outside shrieks, howls, as if keening. For what? Mercy? Vengeance?

Three days before, she had recognized his name on the wounded and casualties list. Albert Moone. She had searched for him, sat beside him during the amputation of both shattered legs, nursed him for the brief hours he lived. Haunted by his dying words, she had come to see him a last time.

"Do you come here often, Florence?"

They were walking the same path back to the hospital.

"Not often, no. But it is Christmas Eve, and those poor boys will never know another Christmas." I came to see him, but I cannot bear to say I knew him. I must ask Selina to write to his mother. Another thing I cannot bring myself to do.

"War is a terrible thing, Miss Nightingale."

"Man's creation."

"Not God's, surely, though it is curious how each side claims Him for their cause, each side prays to Him for victory."

"And each believes they are on the righteous side. The ones justified to kill. Now and again, a patient shows me some token, a souvenir he's taken from the body of an enemy soldier. A pair of boots is most prized, but sometimes, almost with wonderment, they will show me a Russian crucifix or the icon of an Orthodox saint."

"You are not Catholic, are you, Florence? With your zeal, I should think you would be."

"Before I tell you why I am not a Catholic, not anything really, I must tell you I admire your calm temper. You never appear ruffled by crisis or irritated by opposition. You would make a far better administrator, a better superintendent than I. When I compare our qualifications, I am shamed. Were it not for you, this whole calamitous enterprise would be a failure."

"Come now. I do my little part, with you, quite frankly, as my model. Now you must tell me. Why is it you are not a Catholic?"

"It will seem blasphemous, but I attend no church, adhere to no one faith. I have, over time, formed a broad sense of the Divine. One can go not only to Christianity for worship but to Judaism, Mohammedanism, Buddhism, to the East, to the Sufis and fakirs, to pantheism, even to a grove of cedar trees or a field of grass for the right road to God. One can go to science, to the discovery of God's laws in this earthly world. To mathematics. I believe that numbers, marshaled into statistics, into use for the greater good, can reveal God to any one of us. Reverend Mother, I believe the universe itself is an emanation of God. And I believe we are best able to know the divinity within ourselves when free from dogma, superstition, and the theological splitting of hairs. Now I have surely offended you." "Not at all, though I am a staunch Catholic in every fiber of my being. I find your views unique, and do not think it impossible that our Christian mystics, could they speak, might agree with you. Since I have been here in Scutari, the words of Saint Teresa of Avila comfort me daily."

"What words are those?"

"'Suffering is the swiftest route to the Beloved."

"Suffering as a 'shortcut' to God?"

"A way of putting it."

"But if war, this war, 'smacks of murder,' as Mr. Bracebridge claims it does, how can such wholesale slaughter bring anyone closer to God? Those who die in my presence stretch out a hand, murmuring 'sister,' 'sweetheart,' 'mother,' naming some loved one, never once groaning or turning away. Most are scarcely sentient. They go off like animals."

"And God seems very far away."

"And far too slow in coming."

\mathscr{O}

After seeing his name on the list, it had not taken long to find him, to locate the ward, scan the rows of wounded for his copper-bright hair. He was pale from shock but conscious. She sat beside him, told him how she knew him. From Cromford.

"You will write my mother?"

"Yes, of course. I will send your pay, as well."

"That's why I joined."

"I know." Why most do. Not for patriotism.

"I didn't expect to die." Said with a faint smile. "I meant to return home. To the mines."

"To take your father's place?" Mr. Moone, she knew, had died some years ago.

"It's been hard for Ma." A long pause. "Miss?"

"Yes?" Did he not remember her? Know her name?

"Tell them." He was fading.

"Tell them what, Albert?"

"It's wrong. War. How they treat us."

A new surgeon, one she'd never seen before, stepped in with two assistants.

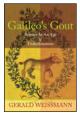
"This one's next. Sorry, lad, hold on tight. We'll have you fixed in no time."

As the amputation began, he closed his eyes, gently pressed her hand.

A Brief and Selected History of Bellevue Literary Press



2007 - BLP launches its first list from offices in Bellevue Hospital



April 1, 2007 – BLP publishes its first book, *Galileo's Gout* by Gerald Weissmann

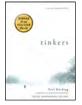
"[Weissmann] bridges the space between science and the humanities, and particularly between medicine and the muses, with wit, erudition, and, most important, wisdom." —Adam Gopnik

April 1, 2008 - BLP publishes Water, Ice & Stone by Bill Green

John Burroughs Medal for Distinguished Natural History Book Winner

"Nature writing of a very high order. . . . A joyride for those who enjoy deep explorations of logic, human frailty and the laws of nature." — San Francisco Chronicle





January 1, 2009 - BLP publishes Tinkers by Paul Harding

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction Winner New York Times Bestseller

"There are few perfect debut American novels. . . . To this list ought to be added Paul Harding's devastating first book, *Tinkers*. . . . Harding has written a masterpiece." —NPR

May 1, 2009 - BLP publishes The Jump Artist by Austin Ratner

Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature Winner

"A beautifully scrupulous, intricately detailed novel about joy and despair, anti-Semitism and assimilation, and like a great photograph, it seems to miss nothing, and to catch its subject in all his complexity." — Charles Baxter





November 30, 2010 – BLP publishes *Written in Stone* by Riley Black (writing as Brian Switek)

"Seamlessly intertwines two types of evolution: one of life on earth and the other of paleontology itself." — *Discover Magazine*

April 19, 2011 – BLP publishes The Sojourn by Andrew Krivak

National Book Award Finalist Chautauqua Prize Winner Dayton Literary Peace Prize Winner

"[The Sojourn] helps us experience a distant past that feels as if it could be our own." —National Book Award jury citation



May 1, 2012 – BLP publishes Understories by Tim Horvath

New Hampshire Literary Award Winner

"Understories is fueled by a wonderfully inventive mind, but ultimately, it is a mind in service to the heart. Horvath's attention is always sauarely on us: who we are, who we have been, and how a great story can transform us." ---Matt Bell

January 1, 2013 – BLP publishes The Child by Pascale Kramer



"The Child is a raw look at the cycles of decay that stalk our lives . . . and the unexpected sources of hope that keep us going." -- World Literature Today

May 13, 2014 – BLP publishes The Boy in His Winter, the first stand-alone installment in Norman Lock's "dazzlina" (Washinaton Post) American Novels cycle

"Brilliant. . . . The Boy in His Winter is a glorious meditation on justice, truth, loyalty, story, and the alchemical effects of love, a reminder of our capacity to be changed by the continuously evolving world 'when it strikes fire against the mind's flint,' and by profoundly moving novels like this." - NPR





January 13, 2015 – BLP publishes The Business of Namina Thinas by Michael Coffey

"Like Chekhov, [Coffey] must be a notebook writer; how else to explain the strange quirks and the perfect but unaccountable details that animate these intimate portraits?" —Edmund White

March 15, 2016 – BLP publishes A Loaded Gun by Jerome Charyn

Phi Beta Kappa Christian Gauss Award Short List PEN/Jacaueline Boarad Weld Award for Bioaraphy Lonalist Firecracker Award Finalist

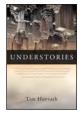
"A magnetic nonfiction reevaluation of the mystifying, radical, perhaps bisexual, and maybe greatest-ever American poet." — O, The Oprah Magazine

March 15, 2016 – BLP publishes The Measure of Darkness by Liam Durcan

Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction Winner

"Straddling the line between a page-turning mystery and a forensic examination of the relationship between brain and self, The Measure of Darkness marks Durcan as a writer to watch " - CBC Radio







including The Child)

January 10, 2017 – BLP publishes Talking Back, Talking Black by John McWhorter

"McWhorter offers an explanation, a defense, and, most heartening, a celebration of the dialect that has become, he argues, an American lingua franca. . . . [He] demonstrates the 'legitimacy' of Black English by uncovering its complexity and sophistication, as well as the still unfolding journey that has led to its creation." — New Yorker

October 10, 2017 - BLP publishes Wolf Season by Helen Benedict

Women's National Book Association "Great Group Reads" selection

"No one writes with more authority or cool-eyed compassion about the experience of women in war both on and off the battlefield than Helen Benedict. . . . *Wolf Season* is more than a novel for our times; it should be required reading." —Elissa Schappell

2018 - BLP becomes an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit publisher

February 13, 2018 – BLP publishes A Wilder Time by William E. Glassley

John Burroughs Medal for Distinguished Natural History Book Winner

"Glassley ponders the nature of perception and the human mind, describes the dramatic physical features of Greenland's makeup and recounts the thrilling adventures of his extended visits there." — Scientific American

May 1, 2018 – BLP publishes Alpha by Bessora, illustrated by Barroux

Doctors Without Borders Prize

"Illuminate[s] the heart-wrenching journey of a West African refugee. . . . The reader is drawn into the refugee's experience and shares his agonizing odyssey via the graphic novel's blunt yet poetic language." — World Literature Today

May 8, 2018 – BLP publishes Mourning by Eduardo Halfon

International Latino Book Award Winner Edward Lewis Wallant Award Winner Guatemalan National Prize in Literature (awarded to Mr. Halfon in 2018 for his entire body of work, including *Mourning*)

"A feat of literary acrobatics." —New York Review of Books

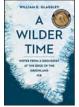
April 9, 2019 – BLP publishes *Murmur* by Will Eaves

Wellcome Book Prize Winner Republic of Consciousness Prize Winner

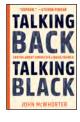
"Beautiful and hallucinatory. . . . From extreme isolation and suffering springs a vision of universal connectedness." — Wall Street Journal







WOLF







August 27, 2019 – BLP publishes From the Shadows by Juan José Millás

Publishers Weekly "Top 10 Books of the Year" selection

"Part surreal comedy, part dark parable. . . . A page-turner of the strangest order, Millás's debut stuns and entrances. It's impossible to put down." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

February 11, 2020 – BLP publishes The Bear by Andrew Krivak

NEA Big Read selection Mountain Book Competition Winner Massachusetts Book Awards Winner

"Gorgeous.... Krivak's serene and contemplative novel invites us to consider a vision of time as circular, of existence as grand and eternal." — Washington Post

March 4, 2020 – BLP publishes Pain Studies by Lisa Olstein

Writers' League of Texas Discovery Prize Winner

"Olstein succeeds marvelously when directly reflecting on her own pain and her attempts to treat it. An accomplished poet, she often uses language beautifully and inventively." —*New York Times Book Review*

February 9, 2021 - BLP publishes Come On Up by Jordi Nopca

Documenta Prize Winner Big Other Book Award Finalist

"In Lethem's witty translation from Catalan, the 11 stories [of *Come On Up*] are heartbreaking and hilarious, tender and violent." — New York Times Book Review



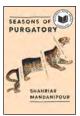
May 4, 2021 – BLP publishes Love Like Water, Love Like Fire by Mikhail lossel

Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction Winner Story Prize Longlist

"lossel's marvelous sense of rhythm dazzles the reader. We can't stop turning the pages of this book." —New York Times Book Review

January 25, 2022 – BLP publishes Seasons of Purgatory by Shahriar Mandanipour

National Book Award Longlist Publishers Weekly "Best Books of the Year" selection



"Seasons of Purgatory unites storytelling subtlety with scenes of visceral emotional impact." —Wall Street Journal



THE BEAR

March 22, 2022 – BLP publishes Uncommon Measure: A Journey Through Music, Performance, and the Science of Time by Natalie Hodges

National Book Award Longlist New York Times "Editors' Choice" selection Powell's Books "Best Books of the Year" selection

"Hodges considers the elemental truth pulsating beneath our experience of music and of our very lives." —Maria Popova, Marginalian



March 21, 2023 – BLP publishes All Else Failed by Dana Sachs

Clinton Global Initiative Reading List selection

"Dana Sachs chronicles what happened in Greece when Middle Eastern refugees and volunteers from around the world converged, imperfectly, often chaotically, but with empathy and generosity in ways that mattered and ways that moved me." - Rebecca Solnit

May 9, 2023 – BLP publishes Like the Appearance of Horses, the final novel in Andrew Krivak's Dardan Trilogy, which began with The Sojourn

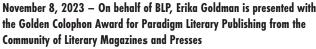
"[A] resplendent multigenerational family saga" — Booklist (starred review)

"Intensely readable" — Library Journal (starred review)

"Subtle and nuanced" -Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

July 4, 2023 – BLP publishes The Ice Harp, the tenth stand-alone installment in Norman Lock's American Novels cycle

"Norman Lock has created a memorable portrait gallery of American subjects, in a succession of audaciously imagined, wonderfully original, and beautifully written novels unlike anything in our literature." —Joyce Carol Oates

















CONGRATULATIONS

to the 2023 Bellevue Literary Press Fall Fête Honorees Dr. Martin J. Blaser and Dr. Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello





CONGRATULATIONS

to our friend, Dr. Jerome Lowenstein

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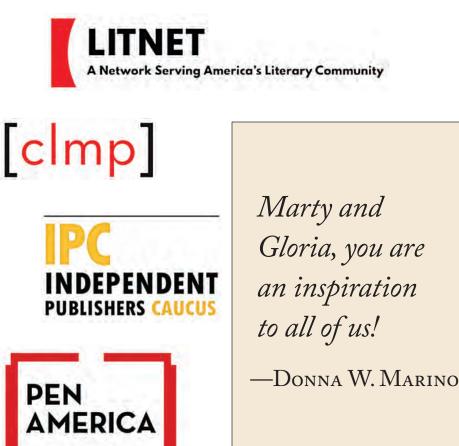
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